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Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of further increasing the difficulty of importing to a secure domain digital content including watermarks which impose a degree of difficulty on illicitly importing to the secure domain the digital content, the degree of difficulty associated with the watermarks being capable of being illicitly overcome by importing to the secure domain segments of the digital content which are so short that the watermarks cannot be reliably detected, the method comprising

preventing importing to the secure domain of sections of the digital content having a length less than or equal to a length associated with the length of reliable watermark detection.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein

the illicit importing to the secure domain comprises recording the segments without recording the watermarks and

the method is performed while there is illicit recording of the digital content.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein

the illicit importing to the secure domain comprises recording the segments without playing back the watermarks and

the method is performed while there is illicit playback of the digital content.

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4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein

data associated with the digital content indicate the digital content can be copied,

the method further comprising

determining whether the digital content is not to be illicitly imported to the secure domain or can be legally imported to a domain, and

overriding the preventing step in response to the determining step determining that the digital content can be legally imported.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 further including

detecting the presence of a distorted watermark, and

performing the preventing step in response to the distorted watermark being detected.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 further including

detecting the presence of a distorted watermark, and

performing the preventing step in response to the distorted watermark being detected.

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7. (Original) Apparatus arranged to be responsive to digital content including watermarks for imposing a degree of difficulty on illicitly importing to a secure domain the content, the apparatus being arranged for increasing the difficulty of illicitly importing to the secure domain the digital content, the difficulty associated with the watermarks being capable of being overcome by importing to the secure domain segments of the digital content which are so short that the watermarks cannot be reliably detected, the apparatus comprising

a detector for segments of the digital content having a length equal to or less than a preset length,

the preset length being so short that the watermarks cannot be reliably detected, and

a signal processor responsive to the detector and the digital content for preventing importing to the secure domain at least some of the digital content segment being detected as having a length less than or equal to the preset length.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein

the signal processor is arranged for preventing copying of the digital content segments detected as having a length less than the preset length.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein

the signal processor is arranged for preventing readout of all the digital media content accompanying a segment detected as having a length less than the preset length.

10. (Previously presented) The readout apparatus of claim 7 wherein the apparatus comprises

a recorder for the digital content.

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11. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the apparatus comprises

      a playback unit for the digital content.

12. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein

      data associated with the digital content indicate the digital content can be legally imported to a domain,

      the detector being arranged for determining whether the digital content is not to be illicitly imported to the secure domain or can be legally imported to a domain,

      the signal processor being arranged to enable importing to a domain all the digital content in response to the detector determining that the digital content can be imported.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein

      the detector is arranged for detecting the presence of distorted watermarks,

      the signal processor being arranged to prevent importing to the secure domain in response to the detector detecting the presence of a distorted watermark.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein

      the detector is arranged for detecting the presence of distorted watermarks,

      the signal processor being arranged to prevent importing to the secure domain in response to the detector detecting the presence of a distorted watermark.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 in combination with a recorder of digital content,

      the signal processor being arranged for supplying the digital content to the recorder unless the detector detects that the digital content has been illicitly importing to a secure domain.

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16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 in combination with a playback unit of digital content,

the signal processor being arranged for supplying the digital content to the playback unit unless the detector detects that the digital content is illicitly copied.

17. (Previously presented) A method comprising:

receiving a segment of digital media content at a secure domain;

determining whether the length of the segment is sufficient to enable detection of a watermark if present in the segment; and

controlling importation of the segment into the secure domain in response to the segment length determination.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein

controlling importation of the segment into the secure domain includes

preventing importation of the segment into the secure domain if the length of the segment is not sufficient to enable detection of a watermark if present in the segment.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein

controlling importation of the segment into the secure domain includes

detecting any watermark in the segment if the length of the segment is sufficient to enable detection of a watermark if present in the segment.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein

controlling importation of the segment into the secure domain includes

complying with a content usage policy associated with any watermark detected in the segment.